Numb. 254

The TATLER.

By *Isaac Bickerstaff* Esq;

Splendide Mendax —— Hor.

From *Tuesday November* 21. to *Thursday November* 23. 1710.

From my own Apartment, November 22.

THERE are no Books which I more delight in than in Travels, especially those that describe remote Countries, and give the Writer an Opportunity of showing his Parts without incurring any Danger of being examined or contradicted. Among all the Authors of this Kind, our renowned Countryman Sir *John Mandeville* has distinguished himself, by the Copiousness of his Invention, and Greatness of his Genius. The Second to Sir *John* I take to have been *Ferdinand Mendez Pinto*, a Person of infinite Adventure, and unbounded Imagination. One reads the Voyages of these Two great Wits with as much Astonishment as the Travels of *Ulysses* in *Homer*, or of the *Red-Cross* Knight in *Spencer*. All is Enchanted Ground, and Fairy Land.

I have got into my Hands by great Chance several Manuscripts of these Two eminent Authors, which are filled with greater Wonders than any of those they have communicated to the Publick, and indeed, were they not so well attested, would appear altogether improbable. I am apt to think, the ingenious Authors did not publish them with the rest of their Works, lest they should pass for Fictions and Fables: A Caution not unnecessary, when the Reputation of their Veracity was not yet established in the World. But as this Reason has now no further Weight, I shall make the Publick a Present of these curious Pieces at such Times as I shall find my self unprovided with other Subjects.

The present Paper I intend to fill with an Extract of Sir *John*'s Journal, in which that learned and worthy Knight gives an Account of the Freezing and Thawing of several short Speeches which he made in the Territories of *Nova Zembla*.

I need not inform my Reader, that the Author of *Hudibras* alludes to this strange Quality in that cold Climate, when speaking of abstracted Notions cloathed in a visible Shape, he adds that apt Simile:

Like Words congeal'd in Northern Air.

Not to keep my Reader any longer in Suspence, the Relation put into modern Language is as follows:

We were separated by a Storm in the Latitude of Thirteen, insomuch that only the Ship which I was in, with a *Dutch* and a *French* Vessel, got safe into a Creek of *Nova-Zembla*. We landed, in order to refit our Vessels, and store our selves with Provisions. The Crew of each Vessel made themselves a Cabbin of Turf and Wood, at some Distance from each other, to fence themselves against the Inclemencies of the Weather, which was severe beyond Imagination. We soon observed, that in talking to one another we lost several of our Words, and could not hear one another at above Two Yards Distance, and that too when we sat very near the Fire. After much Perplexity, I found that our Words froze in the Air before they could reach the Ears of the Person to whom they were spoken. I was soon confirmed in this Conjecture, when, upon the Increase of the Cold, the whole Company grew dumb, or rather deaf; for every Man was sensible, as we afterwards found, that he spoke as well as ever; but the Sounds no sooner took Air, than they were condensed and lost. It was now a miserable Spectacle to see us nodding and gaping at one another, every Man talking, and no Man heard. One might observe a Seaman, that could hail a Ship at a League Distance, beckoning with his Hands, straining his Lungs, and tearing his Throat, but all in vain.

—— *Nec Voces, nec Verba, sequuntur.*

We continued here Three Weeks in this dismal Plight. At length, upon a Turn of Wind, the Air about us began to thaw. Our Cabbin was immediately filled with a dry clattering Sound, which I afterwards found to be the Crackling of Consonants that broke above our Heads, and were often mixed with a gentle Hissing, which I imputed to the Letter *S*, that occurs so frequently in the *English* Tongue. I soon after felt a Breeze of Whispers rushing by my Ear; for those being of a soft and gentle Substance, immediately liquefied in the warm Wind that blew across our Cabbin. These were soon followed by Syllables and short Words, and at length by entire Sentences, that melted sooner or later, as they were more or less congealed; so that we now heard every Thing that had been *spoken* during the whole Three Weeks that we had been *silent*, if I may use that Expression. It was now very early in the Morning, and yet, to my Surprize, I heard some Body say, *Sir* John, *it is Midnight, and Time for the Ship's Crew to go to Bed.* This I knew to be the Pilot's Voice, and upon recollecting my self, I concluded that he had spoken these Words to me some Days before, though I could not hear them before the present Thaw. My Reader will easily imagine how the whole Crew was amazed, to hear every Man talking, and see no Man opening his Mouth. In the Midst of this great Surprize we were all in, we heard a Volley of Oaths and Curses, lasting for a long while, and uttered in a very hoarse Voice, which I knew belonged to the Boatswain, who was a very cholerick Fellow, and had taken his Opportunity of Cursing and Swearing at me when I thought I could not hear him; for I had several Times given him the Strappado on that Account, as I did not fail to repeat it for these his pious Soliloquies when I got him on Ship-board.

I must not omit the Names of several Beauties in *Wapping* which were heard every now and then, in the Midst of a long Sigh that accompanied them; as, Dear *Kate!* Pretty Mrs. *Peggy!* When shall I see my *Sue* again? This betray'd several Amours which had been concealed till that Time, and furnished us with a great deal of Mirth in our Return to *England*.

When

When this Confuſion of Voices was pretty well over, tho' I was afraid to offer at Speaking, as fearing I ſhould not be heard, I propoſed a Viſit to the *Dutch* Cabbin, which lay about a Mile further up into the Country. My Crew were extreamly rejoiced to find they had again recovered their Hearing, though every Man uttered his Voice with the ſame Apprehenſions that I had done:

—— Et timide Verba interniſſa retentat.

At about half a Mile's Diſtance from our Cabbin, we heard the Groanings of a Bear, which at firſt ſtartled us; but upon Enquiry, we were informed by ſome of our Company, that he was dead, and now lay in Salt, having been killed upon that very Spot about a Fortnight before, in the Time of the Froſt. Not far from the ſame Place we were likewiſe entertained with ſome poſthumous Snarls and Barkings of a Fox.

We at length arrived at the little *Dutch* Settlement, and upon entering the Room, found it fill'd with Sighs that ſmelt of Brandy, and ſeveral other unſavoury Sounds that were altogether inarticulate. My Valet, who was an *Iriſhman*, fell into ſo great a Rage at what he heard, that he drew his Sword; but not knowing where to lay the Blame, he put it up again. We were ſtunned with theſe confuſed Noiſes, but did not hear a ſingle Word till about half an Hour after, which I aſcribed to the harſh and obdurate Sounds of that Language, which wanted more Time than ours to melt and become audible.

After having here met with a very hearty Welcome, we went to the *French* Cabbin, who, to make amends for their Three Weeks Silence, were talking and diſputing with greater Rapidity and Confuſion than ever I heard in an Aſſembly even of that Nation. Their Language, as I found, upon the firſt Giving of the Weather, fell aſunder and diſſolved. I was here convinced of an Error into which I had before fallen; for I fancied, that for the Freezing of the Sound, it was neceſſary for it to be wrapped up, and, as it were, preſerved in Breath; but I found my Miſtake, when I heard the Sound of a Kit playing a Minuet over our Heads. I asked the Occaſion of it; upon which one of the Company told me, That it would play there above a Week longer if the Thaw continued; for, ſays he, finding our ſelves bereft of Speech, we prevailed upon one of the Company, who had this Muſical Inſtrument about him, to play to us from Morning till Night; all which Time we employed in Dancing, in order to diſſipate our Chagrin, *& tuer le Temps.*

Here Sir *John* gives very good Philoſophical Reaſons why the Kit could be heard during the Froſt; but as they are ſomething Prolix, I paſs them over in Silence, and ſhall only obſerve, that the honourable Author ſeems, by his Quotations, to have been well verſed in the ancient Poets, which perhaps raiſed his Fancy above the ordinary Pitch of Hiſtorians, and very much contributed to the Embelliſhment of his Writings.

Advertiſements.

☞ The THIRD Volume of the LUCUBRATIONS of Iſaac Bickerſtaff Eſq; on a large Letter, in Octavo, being almoſt finiſhed; ſuch as pleaſe to ſubſcribe for it on a Royal Paper, to keep up their Sets, are deſired to ſend their Names to Charles Lilly, Perfumer, at the Corner of Beauford-Buildings in the Strand, or John Morphew near Stationers-Hall. Where the Firſt and Second Volumes are to be delivered.

ALL Sorts of fine Silks and Mercery Goods for Blank Lottery Tickets, at 7 l. a Ticket, and ſold as cheap as for Specie, at the Eagle and Child on Ludgate-Hill.

AT the GREAT WHEAT-SHEAF painted upon a Copper Plate, next the Bell-Savage-Inn on Ludgate-hill, are ſold all Sorts of rich Foreign Silk, with Gold and Silver Brocades: Likewiſe plain and flower'd Velvets for Gowns and Petticoats, and Coach Linings; with all Sorts of Silk Morning-Gowns, for Blank Lottery Tickets, at as high a Price as any Perſon ſhall give for them, and the aboveſaid Goods as cheap as for Specie.

Morning Gowns for Men and Women, of all Sorts of rich Brocaded Silks, Japan'd Sattins, and great Variety of other rich Silks, Stuffs and Callicoe's, (being a freſh Parcel of choice Goods of Sam. Edwards and Richard Hochett, Mercers) are to be ſold at very low Rates at the Golden Sugar-Loaf up one Pair of Stairs, over-againſt the Horſe at Charing-Croſs, the Price being ſet on each Gown.

THE Effigies of the Right Honourable the Lord Somers, curiouſly done in Mezzo Tinto from the Original of Sir Godfrey Kneller. Sold by E. Cooper at the Three Pidgeons in Bedford-ſtreet, Covent-garden, and all the Printſellers in London and Weſtminſter.

** On Thurſday the 30th Inſtant will be publiſhed for October, Atlas Geographus, or a Compleat Syſtem of Geography, Ancient and Modern. This Month finiſhes all Europe except Great-Britain and Ireland, with a good Frontiſpiece, large Index, Subſcribers Names, &c. ſo that then the whole may be bound up in two Vols. in which is about 100 new Maps, Cuts, Sanſon's Tables, &c. The next Month begins Aſia, in which will be about 50 new Maps, Cuts, and Tables, and ſhall all be contained in one Vol. Printed by John Nutt in the Savoy; and ſold by J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall; where may be had Compleat Sets for Europe, or any odd Months. Note, Thoſe that deſire it, may have the Whole compleat, with the Maps colour'd, and divided into Provinces, &c. at Mr. Moll's over-againſt Devereux Court without Temple-Bar, who engraved the Modern Maps for this, and for Aſia, Africa, and America, that are to come. The Colouring is 2 s. 6 d.

** Next Monday will be publiſhed, for the Month of November, Bibliotheca Anatomica, Medica, Chirurgica, &c. containing a Deſcription of all the ſeveral Parts of the Body; each done by one or more eminent Phyſician or Chirurgeon, with their Diſeaſes and Cures. Illuſtrated with ſeveral Hundred Figures, done by the beſt Artiſts, and from the trueſt Deſigns. Publiſhed Monthly. This Thirteenth for Novemb. continues the Cures of the Diſeaſes of the Bones; as all Sort of Fractions, Luxations, &c. Printed by John Nutt in the Savoy, and ſold by J. Morphew near Stationers-Hall. Pr. 1 s.

** There will be ſhortly publiſhed, An Eſſay towards a Practical Engliſh Grammar. By James Greenwood. Wherein is contained whatever Dr. Wallis has wrote on this Subject, with large Additions and Improvements. Dr. Hicks's Saxon Grammar has likewiſe upon every Occaſion been conſulted. The Whole is ſo ordered, that the meaneſt Capacity may attain, not only to a tolerable Knowledge of the Engliſh Tongue, but of Grammar in General. Particular Care has been taken to render this Book uſeful and agreeable to the Fair Sex.

AT Mrs. Mottley's India House at the Two Green Canſters on the Pavement in St. Martin's-lane, near Charing-Croſs, all Sorts of Indian Goods, laquered Ware, China, Fans, Screens, Pictures, &c. with Hollands, Muſlins, Cambricks, fine embroidered and plain ſhort Aprons, and divers other Things, to be diſpoſed of for Blank Lottery Tickets, at 7 l. each, and the Goods as cheap as for Specie.

AT the firſt Office of Inſurance on Marriage, begun January 2, 1710. in Bolt-Court, Fleet-ſtreet, any Perſon paying 2 s. for a Policy and Stamps, and 2 s. towards each Marriage, will ſecure to themſelves 200 l. Fourteen Perſons having already received above 800 l. for the Charge of 8 l. which grows daily more profitable, the 15th and 16th Claim amounting to above 270 l. which will be paid on Saturday next. At the ſame Place a ſecond Inſurance was begun the 6th of November, where any Perſon paying 5 s. for a Policy and Entrance, and 5 s. towards each Marriage, will receive 500 l. when full, and in the mean Time in Proportion. For the due Payment of all Claims on both Offices, Lands to the Value of 1800 l. are now ſettling, the Title being before Council for that Purpoſe. Note, There are above 1600 Subſcribers to the firſt Inſurance, and near 700 to the ſecond.

AT the Office of Inſurance upon Marriage, by the Generous Society at Templeman's Coffee-houſe at Charing-Croſs, this preſent 23d of November, will be opened a new Subſcription for 2100 Perſons, where any Perſon may inſure upon their own or the Marriage of any other Perſon for 500 l. paying down 5 s. for Policy and Stamps, and 5 s. towards each Claim that ſhall be made on the Society. The firſt 100 to continue ſingle 3 Months, the 2d 100 4 more, the 3d 5 Months, and ſo to advance 100 per Month till the Subſcription is full. They may alſo inſure for 250 l. paying 2 s. 6 d. for a Policy and Stamps, and 2 s. 6 d. towards each Claim; or for 100 l. paying 2 s. for Policy and Stamps, and 1 s. towards each Claim. Propoſals at large may be had at the ſaid Office gratis. N. B. To prevent all Suſpicion of Favour or Partiality, the Books ſhall not be opened, nor no one Perſon admitted to ſubſcribe before 12 of the Clock this Day: And a Perſon at the Door ſhall give to each Subſcriber, as he comes, a numbered Ticket, according to his Order of coming, and ſo he ſhall be entered in due Courſe. Bring your Names ready written along with you.

THE Undertakers of the Subſcription at Mr. Stocton's at the Bell in Henrietta-ſtreet, Covent-Garden, having been at great Expence in purchaſing Plate and Jewels for the ſame, and the ſaid Subſcription being near full, Notice is hereby given, That in order to do Juſtice to all Parties concerned, it will be drawn on the 15th Day of December without fail. Tickets may be had at the ſaid Mr. Stocton's; at Mr. Amſon's, a Goldſmith, at the Gold Ring near Salisbury-Court in Fleet-ſtreet. At both theſe Places the Gentlemen and Ladies concerned may be ſatisfied of the Security for their Money, and the Reaſonableneſs and Value of each Prize, there being but a juſt and living Profit received. Note, This will be the laſt Subſcription for Goods in this Kind. Tickets may be had likewiſe at Mr. Ch. Lillie's at the Corner of Beauford-Buildings; at the Vine Tavern in Holborn; at Mr. Marriot's, a Shoemaker, at the White Hart in the Poultry; at Mrs. Davis's, Milliner, near Hungerford-Market in the Strand; and at Mrs. Marryat's, Milliner, New-ſtreet, Fetter-lane.